



ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2021 – March 31, 2022

*Celebrating 44 years of caring
1978 – 2022*

September 20, 2022

Dear friends of SPEC,

On behalf of our Board, staff and volunteers, we are very pleased to present our Annual Report for the year ending March 31, 2022.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The SPEC Association offers a continuum of services providing information, family supports and community connection through a positive and welcoming environment. This includes a central hub of information and navigational services for all people in Brooks and within the County of Newell, connecting clients with the right information and services to assist them to increase their capacity to deal with life challenges. SPEC also provides services that support the needs of children and their families.

The foundation of all SPEC programs stem from our goal to empower people with the goal of building a thriving community of resilient individuals and families. How do we do this, you may ask?

- Educating parents builds family well-being and enables children to develop to their full potential.
- Integrating new families into our community supports our schools and local economy.
- Youth programming gives students access to positive adult role models and the opportunity to develop new skills.
- Advocating for and supporting pregnant women experiencing substance abuse challenges assures that children are born healthy and live in safe, stable homes.
- Community support assists individuals in connecting with resources and helps them deal with life's challenges by building on existing strengths and increasing their personal resiliency.

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Increase in community collaboration after COVID (Senior's Outreach, BCIS, BCALC, ABLE, FCSS, Bridges Family Program, McMan, Parent's as Teachers, Global Village, City of Brooks, REDI, Alliance Church, Brooks Church of God, MyCityCare, Newell Community Integrated Child Care, Toastmasters, Habitat for Humanity, TECHNATION, Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club, Crossroads Clinic, Grasslands Public Schools, St. Luke's Outreach Centre, Safe Communities, Next Gen, Academy of Learning, Victim's Services, Francophone Association, Community Response Committee, Mental Health Committee, Sunrise School, Outcome Facilitation, YMCA)
- High level discussions with political leaders to advocate for community needs with Rajan Sawhney, Minister of Community and Social Services; Jason Luan, Minister of Community and Social Services; Whitney Issik, Minister of Status of Women; Muhammad Yaseen, Associate Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism; MLA Michaela Frey; MP Martin Shields.
- Partnered with Maretta' Gift Drive. 35 gifts were delivered which included toys, games, personal items as well as gift cards for groceries ranging between \$70-\$120 depending on the size of the family. Alberta Prairie Meats also donated 3 boxes of meat that were added to many of the parcels. Staff delivered to families that were unable to pick up the gifts. Financial donations for personal needs came to almost \$5,000.
- Internal agency updates including orientation process for staff, volunteers, and board members. New procedures in place for staff coaching, performance evaluation, and exit reviews all with the goal of SPEC becoming an employer of choice in the community.
- Updated programming marketing materials, website, social media strategy as well as new signage in front of the building.
- Significant increase in hosting practicum and work experience students to increase their real-world work skills and build on their academic learning.

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SO WHAT HAVE WE DONE THIS YEAR?

SPEC's programs and activities, provided to **3,223** unique individuals, are the result of the dedicated efforts of **26** full time, **4** part time and casual staff along with the **86** volunteers who devoted time to SPEC over the last year. Our volunteers dedicated **1,484** recorded hours as program, casual and board volunteers – a major gift of time on which we rely and are extremely grateful for.

MOVING FORWARD

The board has identified the following priorities: succession planning, financial sustainability and continued agency strategic planning. The SPEC Association has been serving Brooks and the County of Newell for 44 years and we are confident, that as an organization, we are in a strong position moving forward and that we will continue to be a major part of building a thriving community filled with resilient individuals and families.

SPECIAL THANKS

The SPEC organization is grateful to our funders who allow us to continue our operations. These include Children's Services (Government of Alberta), Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Grasslands Regional Family & Community Support Services (FCSS), Southeast Alberta Fetal Alcohol Network Society, and City of Brooks. An extra special thanks goes to those individual/family donors who believe in us and what we do!

Sincerely,

R. Rogers

Roberta Rogers
Board Chair

A. Goodnough

Amanda Goodnough BSW RSW
Executive Director



VISION

A thriving community of resilient individuals and families

MISSION

Empowering people with information, family supports and community connection

Association Values and Beliefs

We Value:

- Honesty and Respect
- Self-Reliance and Resilience
- People
- Excellence in our Service Delivery
- Confidentiality
- Being a Vital Part of the Local, Regional, Provincial and National Communities

We Believe all people:

- Have a right to:
 - Well-being
 - Be safe
 - Be Heard
 - Have Hope
- Have the capacity to change
- Need positive relationships

SPEC Volunteer Board Members



Roberta Rogers
Chairperson



Richard Mak
Vice Chairperson



Amy Dyck
Secretary



September Plumer
Treasurer



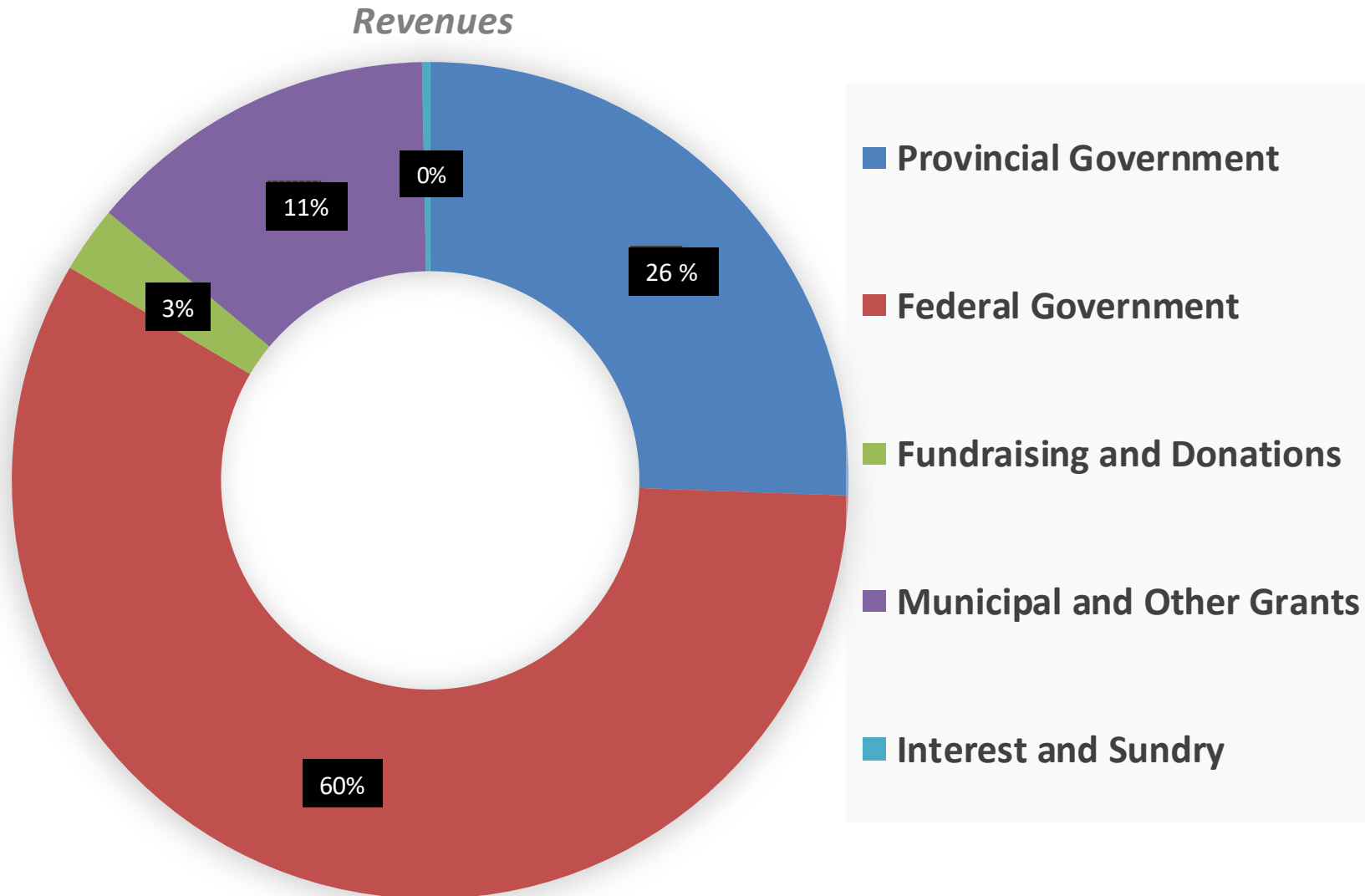
Janessa Forbes



STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

	 2021 -2022	2020 -2021	2019 -2020
Revenue	\$1,660,110	\$1,561,510	\$1,745,311
Operating Expenses	\$1,638,462	1,577,618	\$1,675,134
Operating Net	\$ 21,648	(\$ 16,138)	\$ 70,177
Amortization	\$ 5,873	(\$ 18,551)	\$ 4,589
Net	\$ 27,521	\$ 2,413	\$ 65,588

Where does **SPEC** receive its funding?



Our Funders



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Alberta's Centennial City™



FASD
South East Alberta
Fetal Alcohol Network



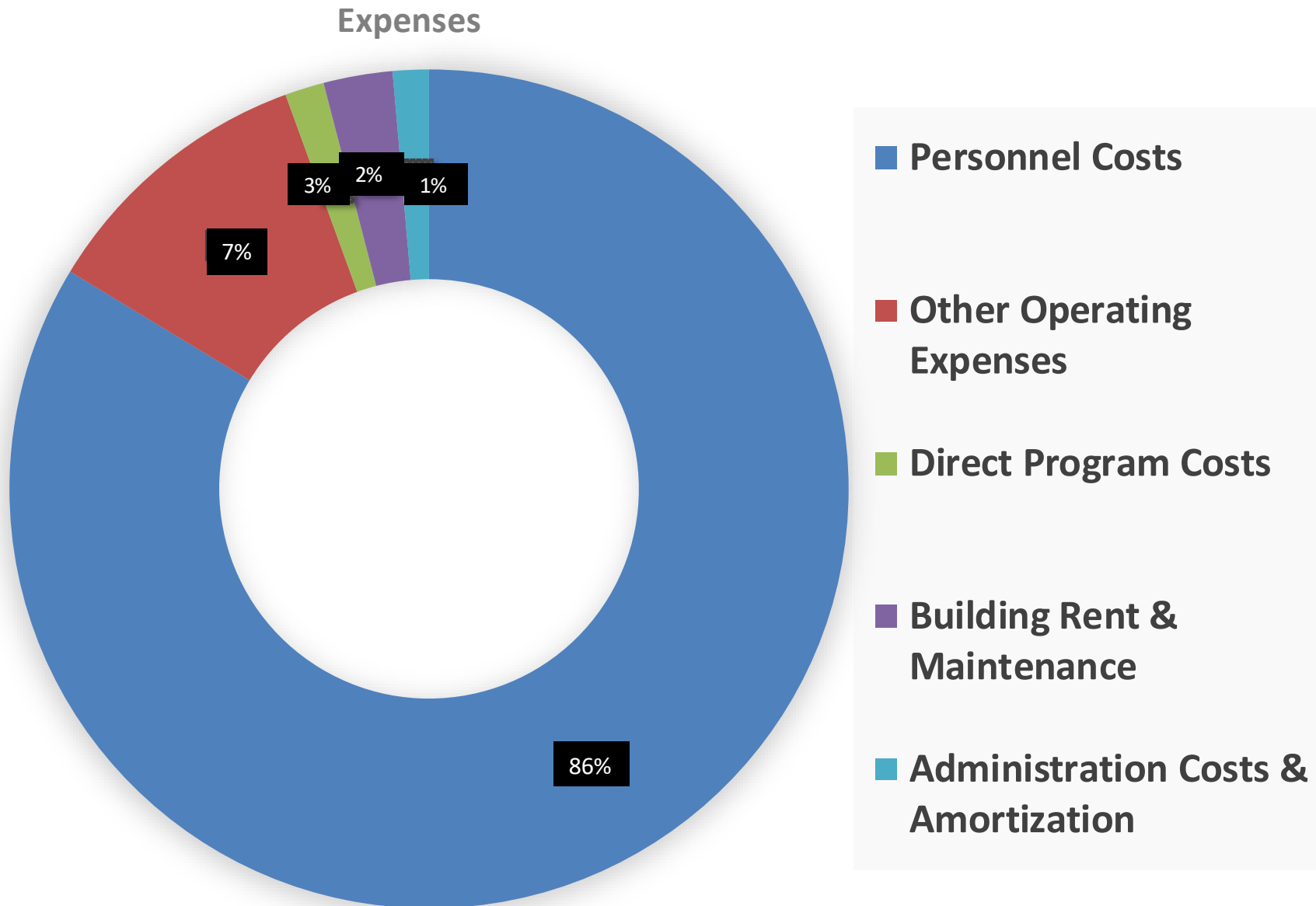
**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
of Southeastern Alberta

Alberta



SPEC thanks our financial and in-kind donors who help make what we do possible.

Where does **SPEC** spend its money?





BROOKS & AREA

Family Resource Network



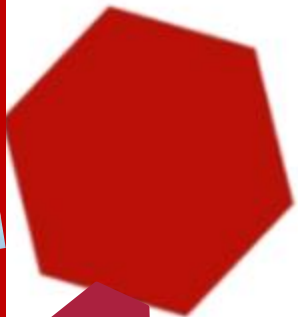
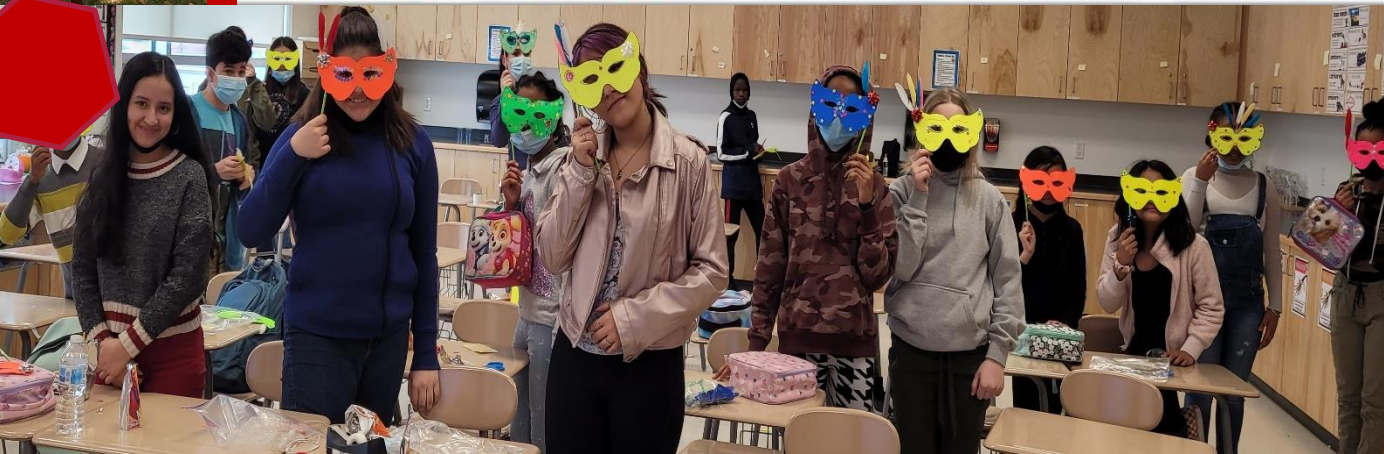
WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

Community Hub

The SPEC Hub is part of the Family Resource Network (FRN) providing information, referral and service navigation for families who have children 0 – 18yrs. The FRN supports expectant parents, families, caregivers and communities to support the safety and resiliency of infants, children, and youth within nurturing and supportive environments.

Program and services will:

- support child safety, well-being
- child/youth development
- and strengthen parenting and caregiver knowledge



SPEC LINKS

NEWCOMER SERVICES



WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

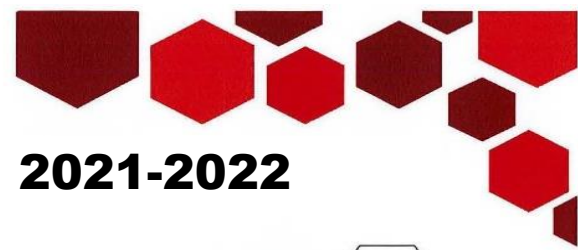
SPEC LINKS offers a wide range of services to newcomer refugee and immigrant individuals, children, and families to support their integration and participation within Canadian society. Services introduce individuals and groups to information and orientation services, and community connections activities. SPEC LINKS offer various life skills activities, encourage community awareness, assist with education and provide referrals to other community resources available in Brooks to meet their clients' needs.

- ~ **Newcomer Family Liaison Workers**
- ~ **Settlement Worker In School (SWIS)**
- ~ **Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)**

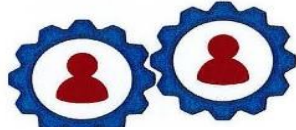


SPEC LINKS

NEWCOMER SERVICES



2021-2022

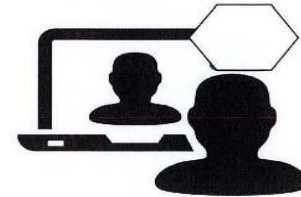


2,532

UNIQUE CLIENTS
ONE-ON-ONE



**EDUCATIONAL GROUP
ACTIVITIES/SUPPORT**



6,673

CUMULATIVE CLIENTS



22 LANGUAGES

SPOKEN BY LINKS TEAM:

- English
- French
- Amharic
- Arabic
- Cambodian
- Filipino
- Harari
- Hiligaynon
- Hindi
- Kinaray-a
- Mandarin
- Oromo
- Portuguese
- Punjabi
- Russian
- Somali
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Tagalog
- Tigrinya
- Ukranian
- Urdu

TOP 12 COUNTRIES CLIENTS ARE FROM



- Eritrea
- Somalia
- Philippines
- Ethiopia
- China
- El Salvador
- Sudan
- Mexico
- Syria
- South Sudan
- Colombia
- Cambodia



SPEC LINKS

NEWCOMER SERVICES

advocacy
rights
views
people
express
information
choices
services
concerns
defend
particularity
vulnerable
promote
access
support
society
voice
understand
expressing
speaking
participating
concerns
society
vulnerable
promote
access
support
society
voice
understand
expressing
speaking
participating
concerns



SPEC

FIRST STEPS

PCAP



First Steps

PCAP

Parent Child Assistance Program

First Steps welcomes community and self referrals. The First Steps (PCAP) program supports women who are pregnant or up to 12 months postpartum, experiencing issues with alcohol and/or drug use and who would benefit from connections to supports and resources.

GOALS OF FIRST STEPS

- ☑ To help mothers build and maintain healthy, independent family lives
- ☑ To assure that children are in safe and stable homes
- ☑ To prevent future births of alcohol and drug exposed children



PCAP is able to provide services to women for three years.

By having this length of time, workers are able to build relationships and connect clients and families to available resources that assist them in their journey to stability and healthy living.

460

DIRECT CLIENT HOURS

1 Rural Advocate hired to connect clients living in the rural communities surrounding Brooks and the County of Newell



9

PERSONS SERVED



First Steps (PCAP) Program – a Free & Confidential Service

Promotion of program through

- short TikTok Videos
- Facebook Videos
- Mocktail Moments to encourage sobriety during pregnancy
- Rural and Brooks

2 celebrants **2** years sober

WAITLIST 2 CLIENTS

BROOKS & SURROUNDING COMMUNITY
CONFIDENTIAL & JUDGE FREE SERVICES

2 participants enrolled in full-time studies

Jennifer Scholz

jennifer.scholz@spec.ab.ca

W. 403-362-5056 Ext 222

C. 403-363-4641 – call or text

♥ **3** healthy babies born to PCAP participants



'Support and advocacy for pregnant women who are struggling with alcohol and/or substance use.'

NO alcohol during pregnancy is best.



IS FIRST STEPS FOR YOU OR SOMEONE THAT YOU KNOW?

- I am pregnant or up to six months postpartum
- I have used alcohol and/or other substances during my pregnancy
- I lack connections to other community services
- I wish to make changes in my life



SPEC
COMMUNITY
SERVICES





WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

Community Support staff provide direct client service to adults, age 18+, who are needing supports unrelated to parenting and family issues, who may be facing barriers. General information and advocacy are also available to assist individuals to connect with existing community and/or government resources. Program supports endeavor to help individuals deal with life's challenges by building on existing strengths and increasing personal resiliency

*~ mental health challenges ~ unemployment ~ lack of housing ~ language barriers ~
~ financial issues ~ education levels ~ literacy ~ physical health challenges ~ addictions*

Community Resource available on our SPEC website

[LocalLINKS-2019-Digital.pdf\(spec.ab.ca\)](https://www.spec.ab.ca/LocalLINKS-2019-Digital.pdf)



Local **LINKS** Booklet
– Community Resource Guide for Brooks and
area





SPEC

BROOKS & REGION

MakerSpace



Brooks & Region MAKERSPACE

WE ARE HERE TO TEACH & ENGAGE YOUTH!

MakerSpace offers a variety of learning opportunities, programs, workshops and competitions where youth learn to integrate STEM activities while developing meaningful relationships which will assist them in dealing with life's challenges by building on existing strengths and increasing personal resilience. The capacity for youth to acquire and apply knowledge and skills to real world circumstances, under one roof with their peers and volunteer mentors, builds comradery and motivation to help prevent and/or alleviate mental health issues that are common to youth today.





Brooks & Region MakerSpace

Mentors @ Maker

**NO SPECIAL SKILLS OR
EXPERIENCE
REQUIRED**

EXPECTATIONS OF MENTORS

- Program runs from September to June (break over summer)
- Commit to approx 4 hours/month (meet weekly or bi-weekly)
- Participate in training opportunities
- Engage in the relationship
- Ask for help when needed
- Bring an open mind
- **HAVE FUN**



YOUTH WHO HAVE MENTORS ARE

- More likely to see positive impact on school attendance, relationships in school & home, social skills, attitude, and behavior!

**Why
Mentoring
is important**



Alone
We Can Do
So Little
Together We
Can Do So
Much

- Helen Keller



*Thank you
from All of us at
SPEC ♥*



1978 – 2022 *44 years of caring*